



**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A perforating tool for perforating single or multiple layer material webs or sheets separated therefrom, the perforating tool comprising:

a first section having a plurality of perforating teeth and a perforation-free gap; and

a second section having a cutting zone and at least one group of perforating elements in alternating sequential fashion, the perforating elements being angled with respect to a longitudinal axis of the second section;

the first section being adjacent the second section at a ~~fold~~ center line, the perforation-free gap of the first section extending from the ~~fold~~ center line to the plurality of perforating teeth.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforation-free gap of the first section borders on the cutting zone of the second section.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the cutting zone borders, on one side, on the perforation-free gap and, on the other side, on the group of perforating elements.

Claim 4 (original): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements of the group are angled in relation to the axis at an angle of between 20° and 40°.

Claim 5 (original): The perforating tool as recited in claim 4 wherein the angle is 30°.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one group includes two groups and the second section further includes cutting segments, in alternating sequential fashion, between the groups.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements at a front edge and at a rear edge are symmetrically angled with respect to the axis.

Claim 8 (original): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements at a rear edge are angled on one side with respect to the axis.

Claim 9 (original): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements at a front edge are inclined with respect to the axis.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements are configured as perforating tongues.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 10 wherein the perforating elements of the at least one group of perforating elements are separated by slit-shaped openings.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the perforating elements of the at least one group of perforating elements have a slanted surface at tips of the perforating elements.

Claim 13 (original): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein a length of the first section and a length of the second section are the same.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A perforating device in a folding apparatus arranged downstream of a web-processing rotary printing machine, the perforating device comprising: a perforating tool for perforating single or multiple layer material webs or sheets separated therefrom, the perforating tool including a first section having a plurality of perforating teeth and a perforation-free gap; and a second section having a cutting zone and at least one group of perforating

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elements in alternating sequential fashion, the perforating elements being angled with respect to a longitudinal axis of the second section; the first section being adjacent the second section at a ~~fold~~ center line, the perforation-free gap of the first section extending from the ~~fold~~ center line to the plurality of perforating teeth.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A perforating tool for perforating single or multiple layer material webs or sheets separated therefrom, the perforating tool comprising:

a first section having a plurality of perforating teeth and a perforation-free gap; and  
a second section having a cutting zone and a plurality of perforating elements angled with respect to the perforating tool and arranged in the second section in sequential rows;  
the first section being adjacent the second section so as to define a fold line, the perforation-free gap of the first section extending from the ~~fold~~ center line to the plurality of perforating teeth.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the ~~fold~~ center line is located at the center of the tool.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the plurality of perforating teeth are separated by spaces, the perforation-free gap being wider than the spaces.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the cutting zone borders the perforation-free gap at the ~~fold~~ center line.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The perforating tool as recited in claim 1 wherein the first section defines a first half of the tool and the second section defines a second half of the tool, the ~~fold~~ center line separating the first and second halves.